

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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## Congratulations to the MBA Class of 2008



## Some Senior Sentiments Reflect Their Respect

by Max Webster  
Senior News Reporter

"Meeting after school on the traAAAck."

These are the six words that senior John Moynihan employed to summarize his experience at MBA. This quotation probably makes about as much sense to you as it does to me – none at all. And that is o.k. I will go so far as to call it good. For as we seniors prepare to take our last steps as high school students, it is the minor, seemingly senseless moments like these that mean the most to us, even if they remain nothing more than enigmatic words on a page for others. The MBA experience is different for each individual. We are extraordinarily fortunate to attend an institution that fosters so many diverse areas of concentration and activity, from a state champion football program to one of the most respected debate teams in the entire nation, and everything in between. Because of this variety of pursuits and opportunity, no two journeys on the Hill are alike. Yet amidst these differences stands the common unity of support for one another and love for the school that brings us together.

With the blissfully heartbreaking realization that our time here has almost run its course, several other seniors have chosen to share their memories and words of advice for future classes. For some these memories are humorous. Corey Metzman reminisces about a particularly embarrassing encounter with Mr. Tillman: "Unfortunately, I had a large hand in getting Senior Scooter Day cut short. On the initial ride in, I wiped out BIG time, and almost took out Mr. Tillman as well. Luckily, everyone who saw it got a good laugh, so people weren't too upset when we had to put the scooters up later."

For a host of others, the memories were of a more serious note, as many remembered the personal tragedies of classmates being displaced from their homes, suffering through family crises, or even tragically losing loved ones, and how our class was able to come together as a family to provide support and sympathy for one another. The most recurring memory, though, seems best articulated by Chad Augusty: "Too many memories run through my mind, but what stands

out and what I think about every day are the friends I have made and the friends I may never see again. These memories are my happiest and saddest memories at the same time."

The Class of 2008 is a band of brothers in the truest sense of the word. Most classes in most schools are plagued by exclusionary cliques and an "underclass" of individuals bullied by those unable to think beyond themselves. Not us. I can honestly say that there is not one person whom I, or anyone else, would feel uncomfortable approaching or conversing with. Sure, we all gravitate to our own groups of friends, but we are very open, amicably civil, and accepting of one another. Although the class of 2008 is one of exceptionally brilliant scholars and nationally-recruited athletes, we are, above all, gentlemen – an achievement that we should be most proud of.

Having completed the voyage that is MBA, each senior is undoubtedly a wiser and better individual for it. Though we are still young in the scheme of things, we have enough experience to justify two

last pieces of advice (don't worry, both are more straightforward than the amusing musings of Mr. Moynihan).

The first is from Rasha' Harvey: "I have two pieces of advice for the underclassmen and rising seniors: 1.) Senior year is your present for enduring the MBA experience, so hang in there and don't give up, it's going to get better every year. 2.) Recognize and respect the differences among your classmates, it'll only make your entire class stronger."

The second is applicable to your years of schooling and those beyond, courtesy of Jas Rader: "Just remember: ANYTIME! It applies to life in general. You never know when its your time to make that big hit, or take that big hit. It can be over at ANYTIME, so take full advantage of every opportunity you are given. ANYTIME!"

A final thank you to MBA and my fellow members of the class of 2008. It's been good, guys. Best wishes to each and every one of you as we begin our own separate paths with the understanding and hope that these paths will cross again.





## THE BELL RINGER

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The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy, headlines, and photographs at Montgomery Bell Academy. Franklin Web Printing in Franklin, Tennessee, prints the paper.

# 2008-09 Admissions Data Offer Interesting Insights

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

Next year's new students have been tested, interviewed, selected, notified, and admitted. The process is long and not too easy for both the new students and their parents, not to mention the school. MBA's Admissions Director Greg Ferrell has provided some data about the young men who will enter MBA next year, and *The Bell Ringer* believes the student body will benefit from knowing about our new classmates. Here are some interesting facts and statistics about the next year's incoming students:

- The class of 2013 has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest ISEE average in MBA's history (the highest was in 2002).
- The class of 2013 has the largest minority group in MBA's history: out of a total of 116 incoming

students (including 8<sup>th</sup> graders...), 13 are Asian, Black, Hispanic, etc.

- The 3 largest feeding schools are in the following decreasing order: 1) Oak Hill (25), 2) Ensworth (17), 3) St. Paul (14).

- 1 student is from home schooling.
- 3 students come from outside of Tennessee.

- The next year's new students come from 30 different schools.
- Of the 30 different schools, 11 are public, and 19 are private.
- Of 116 students, 22 are from public schools, 94 are from private schools, and 1 is from home school.

A breakdown:

Oak Hill - 25 - Private  
Ensworth - 17 - Private  
St. Paul Christian Academy - 14 - Private  
JT Moore - 9 - Public  
Harding Academy - 6 - Private  
Overbrook - 6 - Private  
David Lipscomb - 5 - Private

USN - 3 - Private  
Woodland Middle - 3 - Public  
Akiva - 2 - Private  
CPA - 2 - Private  
FRA - 2 - Private  
Grassland Middle - 2 - Public  
Head Magnet - 2 - Public  
Summer Academy - 2 - Private  
BGA - 1 - Private  
Bellevue Middle - 1 - Public  
Brentwood Middle - 1 - Public  
Christ the King - 1 - Private  
Clarksville Academy - 1 - Private  
Croft - 1 - Public  
Davidson Academy - 1 - Private  
Goodpasture - 1 - Private  
Jere Baxter - 1 - Public  
Meig's Magnet - 1 - Public  
Providence Christian (Texas) - 1 - Private  
St. Mary School (Illinois) - 1 - Public  
St. Ann's - 1 - Private  
St. Henry's - 1 - Private  
Wydown Middle (Missouri) - 1 - Public

## Strange White Creations Visit The MBA Campus

by Jimmy Balser  
Staff Writer

During those tedious days when schoolwork was still threatening to interfere with our first taste of summer, something very strange happened to the Wallace Lawn—a circle of identical mannequin torsos had somehow found its way onto the MBA campus.

Needless to say, students were frightened. Questions began circling about from where the visitors had come, what they

signified, or, in a few cases, how should they be vandalized.

Numerous students became convinced that senior Vincent Camarata had brought the mannequins to campus in the dead of night to confuse the faculty. It seemed that the visitors were not unanimously well received, but they were certainly getting people's attention.

Students, and Mr. DeYoung, kidnapped the visitors and hid them around campus. Altars to the "Torso Gods" were set up on the lawn. By the end of the week some of the mannequins were even sporting college t-shirts.

Many students felt that the visitors had been amusing for a small time but had overstayed their welcome. Some students wondered if the art was meant to poorly represent MBA: an all white circle of athletes with no heads on their shoulders. Still some believed that the mannequin in the middle looking out might be a message to stand against the conformity. But many students declared that the visitors were nothing more than a meaningless distraction.

Now that they're gone (we think), it might be time to ponder over that bizarre display a little more deeply. Students often harassed it or griped about its presence, but it was certainly never ignored.

To gain some perspective I went to see one of our masters of the arts, Mr. Womack. I asked him what he thought the mixed reaction to the visitors meant. He quickly answered that if students were talking about the art and expressing their opinions on them, then the display was doing exactly what it was supposed to do. The non-destructive interactions with the mannequins were really forms of expression. It seemed that the visitors had found a way to inspire an artistic, and a little rebellious, reaction in the student population.

Art is meant to bring differing opinions, even negative ones. While some students looked disdainfully at a plastic heresy, others gravitated towards the circle as a place to sit and think. Of course, they were mostly the theatre kids. Still, I believe that the amount of time students spent discussing the visitors is a testament to the incredible amount of artistic curiosity that is sometimes overlooked here. A student didn't have to be an artist to give an opinion on the display, and everyone had at least some opinion to offer the discussions.

When I asked Mr. Womack if there was a chance for another display to sneak onto campus, he replied that there was, with nothing at this time being planned. But I think it is clear that if students make an effort to bring "loud" art back to the campus, everyone will have something to say about it.



Mysterious torsos take the campus by storm



## Diversity Is More Than A Feeder Pattern

by **Rashá Harvey**  
Staff Writer

*"Diversity is more than a feeder pattern. Seeking to expand the field of applicants to encompass a broader geographic and socioeconomic pool, MBA needs to expand its current efforts to attract ethnic and cultural minorities to campus as students and as faculty/staff members. In conjunction with this desire for broader global awareness is a need for the MBA community to better reflect the diversity of its home city, Nashville."*

This quote featured in MBA's 2006 Self-Study is a call to action. In my last column, I wrote about Montgomery Bell and his vision to endow a school for indigent boys. Is MBA living up to Bell's vision? The answer, while complex, is a resounding "no!", if you consider a few facts provided by our school.

According to the admissions office, twenty percent of the student body is on financial aid (including myself). While, at first glance, this number may appear large, it is relatively small compared to the eighty-percent of the student body's families that paid the full \$17,545 this school year. Assuming that the average family spends about 15% of its income on tuition, the household income of an average MBA family would be \$117,000, roughly 2.4 times more than the national average.

Even though MBA gives out over 1.2 million dollars in financial aid (an impressive number), it typically comprises only six percent of the school's budget. Why is the wealthiest private school in the state not more economically diverse? Throughout my four years at MBA, I have attempted to identify problems and find answers to systemic issues such as economic diversity. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, more than 30 students and faculty members attended a diversity meeting hosted by the African-American Studies club to address these issues. Some students cited the lack of awareness by the larger community about MBA's strong financial aid program as a reason why the student body is not economically diverse. Others want the school to do more to publicize its financial aid program in low income communities in the surrounding area. It is clear, in order to attract bright applicants from modest economic backgrounds, we *must* do more outreach. The lack of economic diversity on campus presents a false sense of reality in our community and correlates with our overwhelmingly white student body.

Racial and ethnic diversity is a very sensitive topic to address in any community, especially those with a history of negative tension toward this kind of diversity. However, I believe it is highly appropriate to bring up the lack of people of color on our campus because it will make our community stronger. A primary goal of MBA is to prepare young men to lead in the world. Yet, a major obstacle to this goal is our homogenous student body.

According to the 2006 MBA Self-Study, minority enrollment has been

on the low side for many years, slowly rising from 7% to 8% over the past five years. A rough estimate for the 2007-2008 school year puts the figure at nine percent. This shockingly low number produces an unhealthy campus culture often ignored by many of us who have affection for MBA. Many white students find it difficult to understand students of color because they have limited interaction with them.

Meanwhile, based on my own experience at MBA, students of color feel marginalized by the very "white" culture on campus. This problem is exacerbated by the lack of non-Western studies in our curriculum. For example, a typical high school student's history sequence is U.S. History, Modern European History, American Government, and Economics. It is very likely that an MBA student can graduate knowing very little about a non-Western culture or people of color. Similarly, the lack of racial and ethnic diversity among the faculty reinforces the negative perceptions and, quite frankly, ignorance towards subjects involving people of color on our campus. Only four percent of MBA's teachers are of different ethnicity. Even more frustrating is that the number of African-American teachers at MBA is zero.

In the diversity meeting, I suggested that the school tap into Nashville's plethora of higher educational institutions including Vanderbilt, Belmont, TSU, and Meharry to bring more teachers of color to campus. There is no excuse for the lack of teachers of color on campus, considering MBA's relatively large financial resources and stable school community.

In addition, my intention in writing this article is not to criticize MBA, but to offer a realistic assessment on how MBA can be *better*. It is common sense to me. Diversity is recognized by many in the business and educational worlds as a feature that can enhance and strengthen a community. A step towards diversity is not lowering standards by any means. I often cite my class, the Class of 2008, as a shining example of the remarkable results that can be produced with a diverse class. My class is the most diverse in the school's history. It is a class that has contributed to the following accomplishments in just one year: winning state championships in football and swimming, producing the largest amount of national merit scholars in recent memory, and excelling on the national level in debate and theater, among others.

Furthermore, the diversity of my class is reflected in some of the following schools my classmates will be attending in the fall: Princeton, Stanford, Texas, Miami of Ohio, Vanderbilt, Trevecca, Sewanee, Tennessee, Samford, Florida, Furman, UNC, Virginia, Howard, Penn, Yale, Middlebury, and Bowdoin. I urge all of you to help make MBA an even better community by respecting the need for more diversity on campus. Let's get to work!

## Typical College Visits Are Remembered

by **Daniel Green**  
Staff Writer

Since the college visit is such a major part of the senior year and the college-choice process, I thought a chat with a senior about his recent visits would be informative. I spoke with senior Will Hannon, whose experiences can help those who will go through the process next year.

**Bell Ringer:** What school did you visit?  
**Will Hannon:** I visited Washington University, Georgia Tech, and Georgetown.

**BR:** With whom did you go?  
**WH:** I went with my parents.

**BR:** Where did you stay?  
**WH:** Just in hotels near the campuses.

**BR:** Are there co-ed dorms at these schools?  
**WH:** Yes.

**BR:** What colleges in the universities did you visit?  
**WH:** The main college areas and then the engineering colleges.

**BR:** Did you talk to any professors or sit in any classes?  
**WH:** No.

**BR:** Is there a McDonald's or some other kind of fast food on campus?  
**WH:** There is typically something there, whether a McDonald's or another restaurant.

**BR:** Is it a deal-breaker for you if there is no fast food nearby?

**WH:** No, it's not a deal-breaker, but it certainly is a plus to have on campus.

**BR:** Is the campus urban or rural or urban with a rural feel?

**WH:** Washington University was more urban with a rural feel, kind of like Vanderbilt.

**BR:** Did you see co-eds studying together?

**WH:** Yes.

**BR:** Were they pretty?

**WH:** Not especially, but they weren't too bad.

**BR:** What is the strongest department on campus?

**WH:** Washington is pretty diverse and strong in lots of areas, but Georgia Tech definitely had a dominant engineering program.

**BR:** Would you want to go to the same school if it were in Nashville, or do you want to just get away?

**WH:** I think that getting away is an important part of the growth process.

**BR:** Is the campus wireless?  
**WH:** Yes.

**BR:** Where is the nearest off-campus coffee shop?

**WH:** I'm not really sure, not a big coffee drinker.

**BR:** Thanks for your time, Will.

**WH:** No problem, hope this was helpful.

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**The Montgomery Bell Academy Class of 2008** would like to offer a special thanks to Mr. Giffen, Mr. Klausner, Ms. Serrano, Mrs. Nutkis, and Mr. Colquitt for all of their help in the college search!

**Good luck to the class of 2008 next year, wherever your life may carry you.**



## Land of Contrasts

by Corey Metzman  
Staff Writer

On my wall at home hangs a travel calendar that advertises Israel's physical terrain as a "land of contrasts." When I arrived in Israel and disembarked at Ben Gurion Airport in an Ambien-induced stupor, I slowly regained mental clarity, and in doing so, began to recognize the utter truthfulness of my calendar's slogan.

Only in Israel can the flourishing oasis of Ein Gedi sprout from the desert only a few kilometers from the sweltering and dusty heat of the fortress Masada. Nowhere else can one drive by a flashy sign for Google's Tel Aviv offices en route to the 2,000-year-old Roman ruins of Herod's ancient leisure village, Caesarea. And, contrary to the American media's use of the West Bank as fodder for primetime headlines, it appeared just as beautiful and peaceful as the rest of the country—a fact I observed during dinner in a vibrant vineyard in Gush Etzion.

The vivacity of Israel's colorful and varied landscape parallels the strength of its national identity that its citizens embrace. Although young as a country, patriotism and national pride flow vigorously through Israelis and pervade the air. Mandatory military service forms a rallying point for a common identity, and after talking to several Israelis, I discovered that the military serves as much of a social function as it does a defensive purpose.

Aside from hearing about the military's social benefits, I also witnessed how military service unifies all Israeli citizens. The army provides citizens with lasting tools of collaboration and communication, and at the same time helps them to mature as individuals. I noticed one particular example of this "coming of age" phenomenon when I was in Jerusalem. While gazing across the courtyard outside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, my eyes fell upon a group of new soldiers being taken on a tour of the Old City as part of the introductory cultural experience for all soldiers. Here is what I witnessed:

A tan, slender Israeli soldier sat, legs crossed, with an Uzi across her lap, and behind her, another female soldier was braiding her hair. The juxtaposition of such adolescent innocence along with the sharp image of military authority caused me to do a double take. I was struck by this vignette of teenage blitheness that existed parallel to, and in harmony with, the serious nature of military service and Israeli defense. It also revealed the truth behind Israelis' self-dubbed nickname, "sabras," meaning resilient and leather-skinned on the outside, but compassionate

and sweet on the inside—just like the cactus from which the nickname is derived.

In talking to various Israelis, I also learned much about the prevalent political sentiments. I heard the older generation's perspective from Zvika, our gray-haired guide with squat legs complemented by frayed khakis above his dusty black loafers. Like many others his age, he expressed an almost gloomy resignation regarding the current generation of Israeli and Palestinian leadership, believing that the current political impasse over a viable peace solution cannot be overcome.

I even got the chance to speak and interact with a few Palestinian teenagers on an Arab beach at the Dead Sea. Succumbing to stereotypical fears, I was at first reticent to respond to a shouted greeting from a Palestinian teenager. But when I told him I was from America, he replied, "Welcome!" in quite proficient English. Later, when I was looking for a place to wash my feet off, a Palestinian woman with sunburnt skin showed me a fountain. These interactions only confirmed what an Israeli friend had told me earlier on the trip: Conflict stems primarily from disagreements among the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, and young, individual citizens don't possess nearly the degree of distrust or animosity of their elder counterparts.

This discovery gave me great hope and the knowledge that, as youth, we have the ability to redesign the political map in Israel. Oftentimes, it is said that the largest reform movement in a country consists of the youth, and this was evident to me during my trip to Israel. Of course, a cynic would contend that a durable peace will always remain impossible and that our generation will eventually mature into an understanding of the ostensible "realities" of the situation. Call me naïve (which I admit I am), but I hope that we can attempt to see beyond the classification of Palestinians and Israelis as political and religious adversaries, and instead view each other as individual people with real interests, goals, and dreams.

I can't wait to return to this "land of contrasts"—a characterization which, I've discovered, extends far beyond Israel's physical landscape to encompass an incredible diversity of culture unified by a strong sense of national identity. And as youthful citizens of the world, we hold the keys to an exciting future for Israel and its relations with other peoples, an opportunity that we should grasp energetically and passionately.

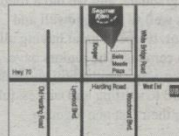


Corey with an Israeli soldier

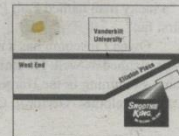


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## Juniors Live Out Their Penultimate Fourth Quarter

by Fadi Pulous  
Staff Writer

It's finally our turn. The class of 2009 has traveled anywhere from 1-5 year(s) to become seniors. There were, though, during this year's segment of the journey plenty of memories, inside jokes, and friendships made. This article will try to summarize them in an orderly fashion, although anything involving Will Holt is never orderly.

Harding McCall will never forget the day the "wii" came out. Harding failed to specify whether he means the video game system or an infamous acronym/slur made by fellow classmate, dunce-cap wearer Jimmy Balser. Brian Swenson recalls an inside joke from Mr. DeYoung's class that I don't understand, "THE QUADRUPLE BUM!" Thanks, Brian, for reppin' that AP Vergil.

Ed Powell's favorite song of the year was *Kiss Kiss* by Chris Brown. His favorite part of the song is when CB says "Kiss Kiss" for about twenty seconds. It must really hit home for the class of '09's laconic Super Smash Bros. hero/warrior.

Taylor Land began looking forward to the summer in the middle of the fourth quarter, when the Titans drafted William "Big Play" "Sea Breeze" Hayes. The second-to-last defensive end coming out of college was selected by the Titans in the fourth round, and he now has a special place in Taylor's heart. Taylor's fourth-quarter average wasn't too good when he realized that instead of turning in a theme he turned in a 15-page scrapbook of Big Play Hayes. There's always next year for grades, but there's only every year for the "Sea Breeze," according to Taylor.

Reuben Thomas wanted to express his discontent with the statues that appeared on campus. A disgruntled Reuben spoke out when he saw that none of the statues were of diverse ethnicity. Reuben's happiness returned when one of the statues ended up being punted onto the top of Frist. Kharma and Reuben are good friends apparently.

Vic Goetz had a disappointing year. His favorite part of the year was getting an e-mail telling him to tell *The Bell Ringer* about his favorite part of the year. Someone doesn't get out much. Vic is also ecstatic about getting to hang out with "a lucky man named Fadi Pulous." My first fan?

Owen Lipscomb has a nice summer planned as well. He claims he'll be going swimming in the Harpeth River a lot...without clothes. Go for it, Owen; just

use the sun tan lotion wisely. Ian Preston also anticipates an awesome summer. Ian is heading to New Zealand on a school exchange trip with fellow classmate Clark Benton.

Ben Gregory, Austin Evans, and this very Muse-inspired writer himself are going to the Winchester School outside of London on an exchange trip.

Nick Willyums' favorite song of the year has been Yael Naim's indie hit *New Soul*. This song has touched him deeply. Jimmy Balser has also shown his true leftist side this year. He's acquired a new vocabulary that consists of three and a half words: "corporate" and "that's wassup." Jimmy also came to the realization that he's not going to college.

But by far the most interesting summer plans belong to Will Holt. The downside is I don't know whether he's being serious, so these next couple of sentences could be a waste of time. Will says he and Coleman Breland are following Jeff Corwin in the outback to take pictures. Coleman Breland is the mandatory "junior hydration specialist." Coleman received a surprise because his job is the present day equivalent of indentured servitude. Will was also able to get a spot on stage watching Kanye perform at Bonnaroo.

The top two favorite quotes from this year, according to Will, have been:

1. "Nah nah nah nah nah nah nah. Nah nah nah nah nah nah. Gettin jiggy with it!" - Will Smith
2. "Hulk Hogan and his wife didn't get a divorce. They really love each other, I watch 'Hogan Knows Best'!" - Brian Swenson.

At this point I don't know what's worse, Will Smith's singing or Brian's admitting he watches "Hogan Knows Best." There'll be an article poll next year to determine the winner.

Well, that's been the year in review. Lots of other juniors will be traveling to various destinations on three different continents. The junior class came together this year contributing to the school's reputation academically and athletically.

Furthermore, the class of 2009 wishes the best for the class of 2008 as its seniors graduate, and we bid a fond farewell as well to Mr. Caldwell and Coach Elliot. It's been great having all of them on campus. The juniors have enjoyed their years on the Hill so far and look forward to starting and successfully completing their last one together.

## Sophomores Finish The Year

by Daniel White  
Staff Writer

Martin Luther King aptly quoted the old Negro spiritual "Free at Last, Free at Last. Thank God Almighty, We're Free at Last," and as of May 23, 2008, the sophomores are finally free from the pressures and stresses of school...well, for three months at least. The sophomores have constantly worked hard the entire school year, not only gaining the most service hours in the year, but also playing big roles in attaining state championships, participating on several varsity teams, and just doing it really big, "like a rockstar."

In case you didn't know, the sophomores do EVERYTHING. For instance, Mitchell Lukens, rifle expert, was the only sophomore to participate in the Envirothon, in which MBA received critical acclaim. This team received first place in the region and fourth place in the state. Also, the Science Olympiad team received strong marks in the region and state competitions. Speaking of riflery, the riflery team won its 12th consecutive state championship. Sophomore Alex Fettroll participated on the winning team. In addition, the football team is working hard during summer workouts in the weight room with Coach V. and Coach Brock in order to gain another state title. Now, I've done some of these workouts during track season, and trust me, it's not a walk in the park.

Just the other week, exam season began. William Tanner expressed his displeasure and was among several sophomores who attended the library study sessions during the week to study

and to do their best on the exam. I have to admit, some of the moments in the library were fun, and still a lot of studying was taking place. Thanks to all of the teachers for their insight and guidance during that stressful time.

In the world of politics, the class elections were held in late April. Drew Daniele is now the Class of 2010 president, Kyle Brantley is vice-president, Neil Ryan is treasurer, and Matt Bellet is secretary. David Dalton joins Jordan Herring and Alex Apple on the Honor Council, and the sophomores elected several new members to the Student Council.

Now, it's all O-V-E-R, and summertime is officially here. Several students are working, such as Andrew Phillips for his grandfather's insurance agency and Kyle Brantley for the Nashville Sounds. Remember, drink plenty of fluids, don't stay out too long, use sunscreen, stay cool, and wear light-colored clothing.

As I close, I would like to say sophomore year was a great year, full of good and bad times, but we learned and grew together. We made and lost some friends, but, most importantly, we all made it through another arduous school year. WE'RE JUNIORS, and that's all that matters. By the way, Campbell Haynes would like to note that John Lowe has the FLOW (ooo, that rhymes), and Alex Apple says that Tyler Pastick deserves a strike.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER,  
Y'ALL!

## Ninth-Graders Look Back

by Andrew Powell  
Staff Writer

In the midst of the excitement about the end of school, the freshman class has managed to remain focused and driven...yeah right! Well, we made it through, without too many stumbles, and we now await two and a half months of blissful aestivation!

Talks with my classmates reveal that having Mr. Gaither's Latin exam on the last day before summer was "killer," but writing the English exam theme in class significantly lightened that load. When asked about English class this year, Miller Higgins said, "Coach K is a hoss!" We all have to agree. Warren Smith summed up the year by saying, "The year had ups and downs...bio was hard!" Warren would also like to express his sadness at the end of the series *Scrubs*, as John Wyse seconded. Right there with you, Warren and JW.

Reflecting on their first year at MBA, several freshman newcomers had some things to say. Jesse Suh said, "It was challenging." Paul Bamson added, "It was different from my old school." Ford Altenbern, remembering the highlights of the year, said, "I'm not gonna lie...I'm a little teary-eyed right now with the year

ending. Just throwin' that out there, cause it was awesome!" It's all right, Ford, I'm sure a few months of relaxation won't be too bad.

It appears to be the consensus that this school year was pretty good to MBA's class of 2011. "Best year yet at MBA," says Cody Fisher, "a lot less work than Junior School." Will Baker, commenting on his opinion of the high school, says, "Pretty awesome - kinda laid back." Walton Macey added, "Go JETS!" Thanks for the advice, Wally. An anonymous student, when asked about his year, replied "God bless Sparknotes!" Looking toward next year, Tom Markham says, "I hear it's hard." He adds, though, that his beloved Reds are not going to be last in their division-again-next year. High hopes, Tom! Van East, on a less academic note, remarks, "I can't wait to drive!" Amen, Van.

Academically and athletically, the class made its mark. From the undefeated football season to the State Math Competition showing, success has abounded. Well, it's been a great year, and I hope everyone has a great summer!



## Spring Sports Summaries

by Kyle Brantley  
Staff Writer

**Baseball**- The MBA baseball team had a successful season, finishing with a 19-12-1. The team was led by a valuable crop of seniors this year, three of whom will continue their baseball careers in college: Frank Adelman will play at Belmont; Jon Jon Eisen will play at Columbia; Jas Radar will play at Sewanee. The team's MVP this year was Johnny Mishu, who led the team in AVG, RBI, and ERA. Region Tournament- W Ensworth 15-5 L BGA 6-9 L JP II 4-6

**Lacrosse**- The Lacrosse team finished strong this year, advancing all the way to the State semifinals. The team compiled a 9-6 regular season record. A victory over Christian Brothers in the State Quarterfinals was a huge highlight for the team, but a loss to the eventual state champions MUS in the State semifinals cut the team's season one game short.

**Soccer**- The soccer team compiled an impressive record of 8-4-3. The team had to deal with the losses of key seniors and juniors this year; accordingly, the team

had numerous freshmen and sophomores contribute significantly. MBA's season was ended by Father Ryan in the sub-state. The highlight of the season was a 2-1 thrilling victory over BGA in the Region Tournament.

**Tennis**- The youth-filled tennis team had a great season this year, finishing the regular season with an impressive 9-2 record. The team took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Carter Invitational and defeated the defending Ohio and Kentucky state champions. The team's fearless leaders were the lone senior Jim Shaub and the team's Number 1 player, Naveen Chadavalava.

**Track**- The MBA track team had a great season this year, but it didn't end quite the way they were hoping. Highlights of the regular season included 1<sup>st</sup>-place finishes at the Doug Hall Relays and the Region Championship. The team rallied together to beat BA in the Region for the first time in five years. At the state tournament, though, the team faltered, placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall. However, MBA had 3 individual state champions: Christian Waddey in the pole vault, setting a new state record; Ben Bartholomew in the shot put; and Patrick Crum in the long jump.



Varsity Soccer at TSSAA Sub-State

## 2008 MBA

### Football Schedule

day	date	time	opponent	location
Friday	Aug. 22	7:00	Antioch	MBA
Sunday	Aug. 31	2:00	Moeller (Ohio)	Cincinnati
Friday	Sept. 05	6:00	Baylor	Baylor
Friday	Sept. 12	7:00	Hillsboro	Hillsboro
Friday	Sept. 19	7:00	JP II	MBA
Friday	Sept. 26	7:30	Ravenwood	MBA
Friday	Oct. 03	7:00	Ensworth	Ensworth
Friday	Oct. 10	7:00	BA	BA
Friday	Oct. 17		OPEN DATE	
Friday	Oct. 24	7:00	Father Ryan	MBA
Friday	Oct. 31	7:00	McCallie	MBA

## 13 Holes With Andy and Lindsay:

### A Farewell To The Class Of '08

by Dr. Gabriel Carro  
Physics Teacher

A few days ago I asked our departing Student Council President Andy McLaughlin to round up two more of his Ireland-bound classmates for a warm-up round of golf. As we'll be playing some serious—and seriously challenging—courses over on the Emerald Isle, a few of these fellows need all the practice they can get. Of course, a little refresher on torque, moments of inertia, and 2-dimensional motion always comes in handy as well.

The game was set: Andy, Lindsay Bohannon, no-show Rush Brady, and yours truly at Harpeth Hills National, 8:20 a.m. on a Sunday. I actually told the guys the tee time was 8:00 to give ourselves some cushion. Good thing I did, too.

To his credit, Andy showed up a bit early and had the chance to slice a few at the range. Lindsay called to say he was on his way and eventually showed up more sleepy-faced than usual. Apparently Andy was sleep-deprived as well, but the dark cool shades concealed it. Seems that there was some sort of crawfish boil celebration the previous night. I'm guessing all that cayenne pepper didn't sit well with the boys.

We convened on the first tee. The boys were riding a golf cart, and I, with my clubs on my back, was ready to walk. A tinge embarrassed, Lindsay said: "Oh, they told us at the pro shop that you'd be riding, Dr. Carro" Andy's line instead was, "don't worry Dr. C-breezy,

if you get tired we'll put you on the cart." There may have been some reference to our age differentials, but I forget...

The round went without a hitch, except for Andy's math handicap and the fact that the scoring squares were a bit small for some of the numbers the young'ns posted.

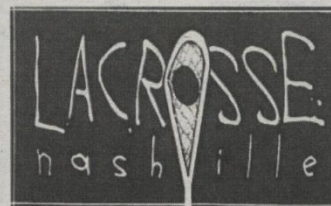
Lindsay has a nice, fluid, and limber swing, albeit a bit wild. All that mild, easy-going demeanor goes out the window when he swings at the ball. Andy's swing can be best described as the motion of a baseball player trying to go kill a bat inside a phone booth, all while doing a little two-step dance. Let me tell you: he's got that right-to-right ball flight down pat.

After 9 the boys were showing some signs of fatigue, so I went to get them a Snickers bar, and off to #10 we proceeded. I was expecting they'd beg off at the turn, but the sugar jolt gave them enough energy to trudge on. Lindsay hit a couple of strong tee shots on #11 and #12, and Andy actually managed to hit two shots straight. It took us a while to find the balls in flight since we were looking to the right when he hit them.

Apparently the adventures of hole 13—balls were struck many times—sapped the little remaining energy from the boys, and they decided to pack it in. My many moons notwithstanding, I finished the round solo, and on foot, naturally.

Thanks to Andy and Lindsay for the fun. Rush, I hope you make it on the plane to Ireland, but the odds are against my betting on it.

To the rest of the class of '08: it was a privilege to get know all of you. Farewell and Godspeed. You guys rock!



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## Blue Coast Burrito: The Mexican Version of Jersey Mike's

by Sully Mehio  
Staff Writer

Right under California and to the west of Mexico's mainland is a thin peninsula known as Baja California, famous for its unique combination of beautiful beaches, scenic deserts, and exotic foods. Among the first restaurants of its kind, Blue Coast Burrito successfully captures the tastes and flavors of Baja California and somehow manages to fit it all into a little brown-to-go bag.

The great thing about Blue Coast is that you can make your own burrito, taco, taco salad, and more. Everything is *custom made* by you alone. (On this particular visit, I made a burrito.) You begin by picking a flavor of wrap – wheat, flour, guacamole, chipotle, etc. Next, you move on to the good stuff – marinated grilled chicken, marinated flame-grilled steak, veggies (for vegetarians), or fish. After that, you can put basically anything else you want in your burrito – when I was finished, my burrito had Mexican brown rice, shredded jack cheese, shredded lettuce, pico de gallo, salsa verde, guacamole, sour cream, green onions, and black olives. You can also make your meal a combo, which means tortilla chips, zesty salsas, and free-refill drinks. I

highly recommend their Baja fruit tea (the best drink ever made by a human being) with two limes, and alongside the tortilla chips, their signature Pineapple Salsa. Oh, and on the way out, don't forget your complimentary mint gum.

The inside of the restaurant is awesome – pictures and souvenirs of all that is Baja California, including real cacti – but I decided to sit outside on their patio to eat. I realized what a perfect summer lunch spot Blue Coast Burrito can be. When the weather is nice, you can sit at their shaded tables and listen to authentic Mexican folk music in the background. Anyway, I bit into my burrito, I drank the fruit tea, I ate all the chips, and I realized what was missing from my life. I loved it so much that I even bought a T-shirt from them.

Blue Coast Burrito is right across from Centennial High School in Cool Springs – a lengthy drive, but well worth your patience. I got the burrito, the chips, the salsa, and the fruit tea all for about \$8.50 – cash is not a concern here. Great food, great drinks, great seating – Blue Coast has it *made*. So whether you're on a date, chilling out on a hot summer day, or just plain starving, take it from me – Blue Coast Burrito is the place to be.



## Even Americans Will Like Korea House Restaurant

by Chunbum Park  
Staff Writer

When I told Karl Mecklenborg that Korean barbecue was really tasty, he replied unenthusiastically, "I bet." I really meant that Korean hamburger tastes better than a Mecklenburger. For many Americans, Korean food must be something so exotic and foreign that they'd dare not try it. The greatest extent most Americans venture in the oriental direction are Americanized Chinese food and teriyaki in Japanese restaurants.

However, Americans with multicultural experiences or concerns for healthy diet can enjoy real Korean cuisine at several places scattered about middle Tennessee. One such Korean restaurant is Korea House, located on Charlotte Pike, in the West Towne Plaza.

Korea House is a small and very homey place, and especially at night the area seems like a dimly lit paper lantern. The customers – half of whom are Americans – love the clean and cozy atmosphere and the neat simplicity of the dishware and the architecture, including this semi-traditional wooden hallway by the entrance. Because so many Americans and other non-Koreans come here, no one stands out of the crowd in this foreign diner. Many Americans here often have with them Asian family members (i.e. husband/wife, adopted children, mixed), or Asian friends (who are not necessarily Korean). Additionally, I suspect that a considerable amount of the visiting Americans used to live in Korea as civilians or as U.S. military personnel. I've also seen people of Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican nationalities visit

this beautiful restaurant.

Although so many non-Koreans come to the Korea House, the place offers a distinctly Korean service, unlike the other international cuisines that are Americanized. First, the entrees are Korean dishes with the same name and the same taste that you'd find in South Korea. The waitress who takes your orders and the cooks are Korean; you can order Korean rice alcohol, "Soju" (if you're older); you can watch on the top right area a Korean TV broadcast, including soap operas and comedy shows; you get side dishes (including kimchi) along with your main orders; and the spoons, dishes, rice bowls, tea cups, the tea, and the stone pots are all Korean items.

The prices at Korea House are very affordable. The dinner entrees come at around \$9.00, and that includes the side dishes and rice. Unlike the Japanese or American cuisines, Korean dishes require long preparation in different stages and many different ingredients (i.e. the bulgogi meat must be marinated a few to several hours beforehand with sauce and cooked with various Korean spices and vegetables, including sesame seeds, garlic, etc.). Because of all the benefits of the affordable costs, healthy and tasty food, the clean and neat environment, and the real Korean service, the Korea House won the SCENE BEST OF NASHVILLE awards in 2006 and 2007 as the Best Korean Restaurant.

I give the Korea House 8 out of 10. I strongly recommend to my peers and faculty members at MBA that you take your family and friends to the Korea House.



Dol-Sot Bibimbap, mixed with pepper sauce



## Mr. Coverstone Runs From Political Science For Political Office

by Pat Killian  
Staff Writer

Mr. Alan Coverstone, Academic Dean and government/economics teacher at MBA, has entered the race for a seat on the Metro Nashville Board of Education from District 9. Marsha Warden, the current chairperson of the Board, has chosen not to seek re-election this fall, so the race for the seat is wide open. Here's a quick look at his campaign.

Running against Lee E. Limbird, James Carl Lech, Stephen W. Hicks, and Paul J. Brenner, Mr. Coverstone has opened a small campaign headquarters and is spending quite a bit of time doing the things necessary for election. His primary concern now is trying to gain the endorsement of the education committee of the Chamber of Commerce. This is a very important piece in the process of election, for their support can often make or break a candidacy.

When asked why he is going through the grind of an intense campaign, Mr. Coverstone tells the blog *What's Wrong With Nashville*, "I guess it comes down to a simple feeling of responsibility to the children and families of this community. We have an obligation to be sure that each child in our community is educated and ready for the future he or she will inherit."

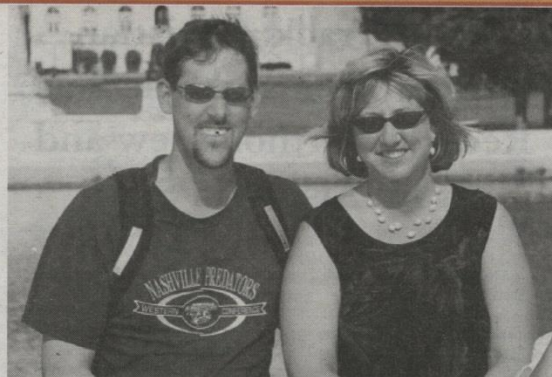
Not only friends and neighbors, but also a large handful of MBA students are helping Mr. Coverstone. Led by Mrs. Lucy Haynes, they have put up numerous lawn posters around and about the Green Hills, Belle Meade, and West Meade areas. Several MBA teachers are also supporting him with money and other gifts.

Running for office, even a local one, can be an intensive experience. The candidate must be tireless and yet maintain his enthusiasm. He must realize that people need and want to see for whom their vote will go, and he must talk about himself repeatedly. Mr. Coverstone says, "I haven't liked being the center of the campaign as much as helping out on one, as I have in the past. But as the candidate, I do know the product we're selling pretty well."

Mr. Coverstone acknowledges that his being a teacher and administrator in a private school will probably affect the public's opinion of his candidacy, but he also points out that he himself attended a public high school and enrolls both of his children in Metro Nashville public schools. Furthermore, his primary motivation is a genuine concern about the quality of education in the greater community. He knows and tries to relate that where he works has nothing to do with his commitment to the improvement of Metro's public schools. A new perspective such as he will bring to the meetings can certainly not be negative.

This seat on the Board of Education would be Mr. Coverstone's first elected office, although in the past he has served in similar capacities, such as a Parents Advisory Council representative on the Mayor's School Funding Task Force and on the Magnet Cluster Board.

*The Bell Ringer* supports Mr. Coverstone in his campaign and hopes its readers will offer their support as well.



Mr. Coverstone enjoys campaigning with his wife

## Dr. Batten Gives Some Insight Into The Senior English Class

by Daniel Green  
Staff Writer

I spoke with Dr. Batten about a great opportunity offered by MBA outside of the normal school curriculum, a semester-long course on philosophy, offered as an elective to seniors.

*Bell Ringer:* Do you teach the class?

*Dr. Batten:* Yes, I am the only one teaching the class at present.

*BR:* Was this past year the first year that it was offered as a class?

*DB:* No, it was the second year that the class has been offered.

*BR:* Which philosophers do you read/discuss?

*DB:* We read the philosophers Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Voltaire, Hegel, Marx, Graham Greene, Kate Chopin, Sartre, Joan Didion, Foucault, and Pat Barker, though we cover more than just these philosophers.

*BR:* What do you all talk about in the class?

*DB:* Many of our discussions have to do with some central questions, such as what is philosophy, what is the role of the philosopher in his or her state, what constitutes the good life, what constitutes the good state, and how do we define or comprehend what is real as distinct from whatever is unreal?

*BR:* How have your students reacted to the class, so far?

*DB:* Students taking the class have expressed great interest in the ideas and the application of philosophical concepts to selected works of literature. Several boys comment on how different the course is from a regular English course. In addition, we are able to cover some classic and modern literature that is normally outside the range of traditional senior English.

## Staff for '08-'09

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Jimmy Balser and Will Holt, Entertainment Editors

Will Holt, Business Manager

Dalton Fouts, Assistant Business Manager

## Latin Scholars

An astounding 25 MBA students earned a perfect score on the National Latin Exam. Below is a list of those students.

### Latin I:

Baker Swain  
Henry Richardson  
David Artaga  
Aidan Davis

### Latin II:

Nick Kohler  
Max Werthan  
Connor Caldwell  
Naveen Chadlavada  
David Lee  
Lane Bullock

Chris Goodrich  
Tom Markham  
Ryan Hill  
Stephen Bedard

### Latin III:

Richard Henderson  
Hershel Mehta  
Neil Ryan  
Michael Seitz  
Will Henry  
Jordan Herring  
Daniel Todd  
Seth Akers-Campbell  
Matt Moynihan  
Pat Killian  
John Lowe

*The Bell Ringer* is searching for a student photographer for the '08-'09 school terms. If interested, please email: [bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com](mailto:bellringer@fc.montgomerybell.com)



## MBA Track: Christian Wadley Wins and Sets State Record; Bartholomew and Crum Also Win State

by Michael Seitz  
Staff Writer

The MBA track team capped off its successful 2008 season with outstanding individual and team performances in the Spring Fling State Track Meet, completed on Friday May 23 at MTSU.

Senior Christian Wadley, a Virginia signee, broke the state record in the pole vault with a height of 15-11. Wadley beat the second-place vaulter in the meet by nearly 2 feet and barely missed extending his record at 16-2.

He improved tremendously on his Region Meet record, exceeding his personal best by 10 inches. "I got on a bigger pole this week, and I started dropping my shoulders in the middle of the vault, which helped me get a couple extra inches off the top of the pole," he told the *Tennessean* in an interview. "Everything came together in the last week. I just stopped worrying about it, and it almost just got better on its own." MBA now holds state records in the pole vault as well as in the shot put, set by Scott Denbo in 1997.

The team's success continued in the field events, as senior Ben Bartholomew, a Tennessee football signee, won his second straight shot put state championship with a throw of 56-8 1/2.

Junior Patrick Crum won his second-straight long jump state

championship, breaking his own school record with a jump of 22-9 1/4.

Senior E.J. Vinsang, a Furman football signee, placed in five events: decathlon, long jump, triple jump, 110 meter hurdles, and 300 meter hurdles. His five events were the most by any athlete at the state meet.

The 4X800 meter relay team of sophomores Michael Seitz and Dalton Fouts, senior Tyler Ramsden, and junior Baker Mulherin turned in the best MBA running performance of the night, finishing state runners-up by less than 1 second. Twenty minutes after running his leg in the 4x800 race, Tyler Ramsden placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 1600 with a time of 4:33.64.

While the track team hoped for higher than 5<sup>th</sup> in the state finals, they accomplished a great deal this season. The team won the Highland Games in March, the Doug Hall Relays and the Nashville City Meet in April, and most importantly, the Region Meet in May, beating eventual state champion Brentwood Academy while winning the meet for the first time in 5 years. With a talented returning unit and underclassmen ready to meet the challenge, the MBA track team now looks ahead to build on the legacy of the departing seniors.



Christian prepares for the State Meet

## New Coaches Join The Football Program

by Alex Apple  
Staff Writer

In Daniel McGugin's first season as MBA's football coach, he led the team to an undefeated record and another Big Red state championship. He was helped by a great coaching staff, a couple of whom have departed for their hometowns and one of whom left for a new start at a rival school. Four new coaches have since joined the program.

The first coach is Jonas Rodriguez, who is coming from Ensforth to coach the linebackers. He has coached previously at FRA, and he played football at Yale. Most importantly, he is an MBA alum who has a long track record of being on successful teams, dating back to his high school days.

Chris Sanders is the second coach. He is coming from CPA to coach the wide receivers. Coach Sanders played wide receiver for the Titans for several years, and he has coached at CPA the past two years. He brings great knowledge and experience to the staff and will be a great help to the offense.

Third, Orlando Mitjans is coming from Eastern Kentucky University. He has coached college football for over 20 years and has an extensive knowledge of the game. His coaching resume includes being defensive coordinator at schools like Eastern Kentucky, Florida A&M, TSU,

and Towson. Additionally, he has worked for the Jets, Rams, and Chiefs in the NFL. He will lead the defensive backfield this upcoming year.

The final coach is Mathew Jacques, who just graduated from Yale. He won two state championships while playing at MBA. He will coach the cornerbacks.

Coach Dan McGugin said of the coaches, "They will all bring great energy, knowledge, and a passion for MBA's overall mission."

In addition to coaching, Jonas Rodriguez will teach history and coach basketball. Chris Sanders is going to be a counselor, as well as helping out with the track team, and Mathew Jacques will work with alumni relations and the development office, while Orlando Mitjans will be a non-faculty coach.

Coach McGugin and MBA are thrilled to have these wonderful coaches. When reflecting on everything that these coaches bring to the school, Coach McGugin said, "All of these guys will help make up the best football staff we have ever had at MBA. We are blessed to have them all join us. They love football, they love young people, but most importantly they love what MBA stands for. Our motto of Gentleman, Scholar and Athlete is taught everyday in our football program." Roll Red.

### State Meet Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christian Wadley	Pole Vault	15-11.00
1 <sup>st</sup>	Patrick Crum	Long Jump	22-09.25
7 <sup>th</sup>	E.J. Vinsang	Long Jump	19-08.00
6 <sup>th</sup>	E.J. Vinsang	Triple Jump	41-02.25
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ben Bartholomew	Shot Put	56-08.50
6 <sup>th</sup>	Matt Ferrell	Discus Throw	133-11
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Bartholomew	Discus Throw	132-00
7 <sup>th</sup>	E.J. Vinsang	Decathlon	5273 pts.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Brad Bars	Decathlon	4562 pts.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Baker Mulherin	800 Meter Run	2:01.65
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tyler Ramsden	1600 Meter Run	4:33.64
7 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan Hill	3200 Meter Run	10:00.74
4 <sup>th</sup>	E.J. Vinsang	110 Meter Hurdles	15.61
7 <sup>th</sup>	E.J. Vinsang	300 Meter Hurdles	42.48
7 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Wade, Alfonza Knight, Dent Shillinglaw, Patrick Crum	4X200 Meter Relay	1:33.17
6 <sup>th</sup>	Nathan Wade, Brad Bars, Baker Mulherin, Patrick Crum	4X400 Meter Relay	3:32.62
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael Seitz, Dalton Fouts, Tyler Ramsden, Baker Mulherin	4X800 Meter Relay	8:07.13



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## Cellophony '08 Makes Money and Wonderful Music

by Anderson Gaither  
Bell Ringer Advisor

On Sunday, May 11, Zan Berry and friends put on the 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Cellophony*, a musical fund-raiser for the W.O. Smith School of Music. The event brought in almost \$500 for the school, which furnishes instruments and music lessons for children who want to study music but who lack the financial resources.

Zan's brother Hamilton (MBA class of '03) and his friend Michael DeBruyn (MBA class of '03), both world-class cellists, started *Cellophony* during their junior year here, and the first two programs integrated the cello into many genres of music. Hamilton, by the way, was spotted a couple of months ago on *SNL*, as part of a string ensemble backing up Vampire Weekend.

This year's program was closest to the original since those initial couple of years, with two cellists appearing periodically throughout the show. Zan's cello has been a familiar part of the MBA music scene for several years now, and it was great to see the range of his versatility and to be reminded that the cello is not just for classical music.

Watching MBA students release their talent in their own venue provides excitement for the audience and for the musicians a welcome change from the structured and prescribed format under which they play through most of the school year.

Various MBA and guest musicians put on fifteen songs throughout the 80-minute show. Musicians for the numbers included Sam Tucker on drums, Michael Downing on bass, guitarists Elliott Sutter, Dane Ferré, Will Henry, Rush Brady, and Alex Martin, with Morey Hill and Will Orman on piano. They left no doubt about their talent and spirit. They all had a good time playing.

Major highlights of the show were Bennett Davidson singing The Strokes' "Reptilia" with a not unexpected flair, and Zan and his co-cellist Austin Hoke playing Vivaldi with zest.

It was fun watching Will Orman alone on the stage playing the piano and singing "Asleep" by The Smiths. Will then sang the Pixies' "Where is My Mind?" with Alex Martin, Elliott Sutter, and Bennett Davidson backing him up. When he chooses to engage and include the audience in his singing, Will presents a strong presence.

Stealing the show, though, was actor Brendan Mayhew's singing David Bowie's "Space Oddity." Brendan was great, and putting this number first on the play list may have been a mistake,

for everything subsequent to it came up short in comparison. Adding interest to the number were Zan and Austin playing their two cellos. The swelling undercurrent furnished by these strings added strength and *gravitas* to match Brendan's powerful performance. Brendan sang like he had been a front man in a band for years; he was remarkably confident and theatrical. Brendan held your attention throughout the song. His second number, Interpol's "Evil," was almost as good as the David Bowie piece.

It must be said that the rendition of Radiohead's "Airbag" was a close second to "Space Oddity" when gauging the audience's favorites. Zan's singing, along with Alex Martin's guitar, Michael's bass, and Sam's drums reproduced faithfully the haunting sound of the original.

An extra treat was a return performance by one of the original Cellophonists—Wesley Langlois. Yes, he whistled, played his harmonica, and picked his guitar...but, unfortunately, no ukulele. Wesley still knows how to grab the audience and toy with their emotions with his understated and sensitive singing. Such lyrics as, "It doesn't matter if you are ugly or pretty, it doesn't matter if you're poor or wealthy, you're still gonna die," can't help but move any audience. And the lonely sounds of his harmonica just heightened the emotional moment.

A couple of disappointments marred this otherwise excellent evening. Luke Bellet, possessing one of the sweeter voices on campus, failed to learn the lyrics for at least one of the numbers he sang. On another song, a duet, he knew the lyrics incompletely. This caused, of course, a tentative and inadequate performance. It also caused his guitar accompaniment to wonder at what pace the song should be played.

The other infelicitous occurrence, which has been a recurring problem with *Cellophony* for the past few years, was the lack of a program. The audience would like to know the performers on each number and the song being performed. It does not take long to type a program and reproduce it. Even if the acts are not finalized until the last minute, a program can be put together. Next year this must be a priority.

The show ended with Zan, Morey, and Luke out front on everybody's favorite, Paul McCartney's "Hey Jude." Here, near the end of the show, Alan Schulman made an appearance on the piano to complement Sam and Michael. Then, the entire cast of singers and instrumentalists came out to finish the song to the applause of the entire audience. What a wonderful evening!!!



Cellophony members perform Interpol's "Evil"



Zan Berry and Austin Hoke perform a cello duet



The whole group singing finale "Hey Jude"



## MBA Re-Joins The Youth Legislature

by Nick Williams  
Staff Writer

Thanks to the unflinching leadership of Jimmy Balser and Nick Williams, MBA was able to organize its first Youth Legislature team in four or five years, and although we received no awards or recognition and most bills were deemed unconstitutional, we held fast to our dignity. Every one of the bills survived the first day and made it onto the docket (the docket contains only the finest 20% or so of the bills). However, the monstrous constitutional filter was yet to come, and, sure enough, after the second day most MBA bills were deemed unconstitutional, immoral, or both.

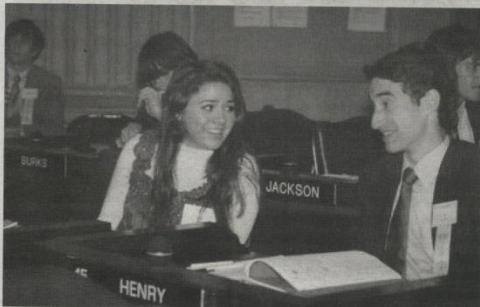
A typical day at the Youth Legislature conference would go something like this: Wake up from a revitalizing four- or five-hour slumber thirty minutes past breakfast time, don some classy business-like attire, run across the street to the capital building where, upon arriving, you can catch a whiff of the bittersweet scent of politics, proceed to empty the contents of your wallet to compensate for your tardiness, and commence legislation.

Now at this point the day can go in many directions. For the dedicated few, i.e. Jimmy Balser or Fadi Poulos, a heated argument with a fellow delegate

may ensue, and if the latter begins to take the upper hand, sarcasm or obscure insults are always comforting. For others, the upper galleries provide a safe haven for hangman and/or mildly inappropriate doodling. Finally, for only the most audacious, an accidentally distasteful comment while addressing the floor seems to be the way to go.

Aside from admiring the grand and intricate system of legislation our state has to offer, the highlight of the weekend had to be the glass elevators in the hotel. By the end of the weekend, it was common knowledge that weight limits and sexual preference were to be disregarded aboard these awe-inspiring transporters. The dances also proved to be a highlight, as wonderful flashbacks of middle-school mixers flooded the brains of every delegate, and we were serenaded by the likes of Flo Rida, T-Pain, Timbaland, and Miley Cyrus.

All in all the weekend was a great success, even if our bills did not live up to our unrealistic expectations. We obviously need much more experience at this sort of thing, but excusing away the lack of success we endured during this first visit back to the Youth Legislature in several years, we like to say, "Who needs the Constitution?"



Alec Martin woos the legislative ladies



MBA students discuss politics at the Sheraton

## Foreign Language Students Win Awards

by Alvin Kim  
Staff Writer

This year's foreign language students dramatically improved scores in all areas of the national language exams.

On the National Spanish Exam, students taught by new teachers Mr. Gray, Ms. Serrano, and Ms. Lanigan made a strong showing, with 34 boys gaining Premio recognition, 19 bronze, 23 silver, and 20 gold.

On the National French Exam, of those boys taught by Mrs. Christeson and Mrs. O'Connell, 17 students placed within the top 16 in the nation, with junior Austin Evans ranked as number one in the United States.

Herr Sawyer's scholars continued this trend of domination, with 19 scoring at or above the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile, 14 at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile, 11 at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, 9 at or above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile and 7 at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile.

In Greek, John Moynihan earned a Merit Distinction Ribbon, while Robbie Weikert won a Certificate of Merit and a Ribbon.

On the National Latin Exam, where the most large-scale success in the entire department was seen, 268 students

earned awards, with 143 of these students winning gold medals. The rising junior class shows tremendous promise with 10% of the class writing perfect papers. Commenting on the success of the foreign language students, Dr. Seay himself states that "these are excellent results all around and reflect excellent teaching and preparation. MBA students do so well on national exams and always surpass the national average in every language category."

In other foreign language news, diversity makes dramatic developments. Students Joshua Liang and Alvin Kim and teacher Ms. Joan Li have now established the Asian Cultural Club (ACC). This new group is open to anyone of any background as a means of providing education on Eastern culture that would otherwise not be found in the MBA curriculum. In collaboration with Denzel Caldwell and Daniel White (rising leaders of the African-American Studies Club, so ably pioneered by Rashá Harvey), the two groups hope to mark the beginning of a larger diversity group that will address international issues spanning from relief to racism.

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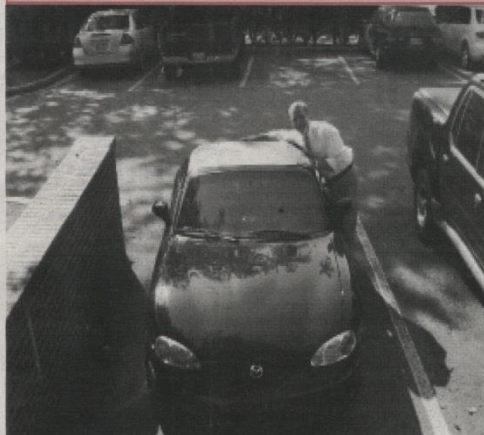
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Mr. Herring hugging his baby

## Mr. Herring Chats About His Beloved Car

by Brian Swenson  
Features Editor

Have you ever wondered why Mr. Herring is so crazy? Well, it might have something to do with his fast sports car, a 2001 black Mazda Miata with a 4-cylinder, 12-valve engine and 58,000 miles, which he describes as "generally factory, but slightly souped up, and it is so light that it accelerates like a rabbit, and I don't have to slow down on curves."

He purchased it as a "fun car," to ease the pain of driving to school from Franklin every day. He portrays a drive in his car by saying, "It likes to cruise at around 90 to 95, but I have had it up to 110 before, but I won't take it up much more than that because I really do not want to see how fast it can actually go."

Mr. Herring rides low in his car as he whizzes past semis on the interstate. He says, "I feel awfully tiny, but it is so

quick that I feel like I'm on a motorcycle, except with a bigger engine."

Mr. Herring says that he has not been involved in any wrecks with it, but he always has his headlights on for safety. Surprisingly, he has no tickets either. He heroically recounts a close call he had just a few days before the interview: "I was coming to work on I-65 early in the morning, and there was a dirt farmer creeping in the left lane, so I was pinned in. Finally, I punched it out at 95 and went roaring past everyone, including a state trooper on the side of the road. He must have been asleep, or else he would have surely pulled me over."

Finally, I asked him what car he had before the Miata. He replied, "A really old Ford Ranger truck." O.K... Way to step it up Mr. Herring!



Max Webster barely restrains his rap flow at the Leavers Dinner

## A Look At The Best And The Worst

by Michael Downing, Alan Schulman, and Sam Tucker  
Entertainment Writers

2007-2008 has been a wonderful school year. However, it has had its highs and lows. Consequently, we have compiled a list of the best and worst of essentially everything (that matters) this year.

**Best Assembly:** The Mobster Guy.  
**Worst Assembly:** Any sports assembly.

**Best Movie:** *Terminator 2* (it lives on).  
**Worst Movie:** *Meet the Spartans*

**Best New Teacher:** Sr. Gray.  
**Worst New Teacher:** Ah, you know.

**Best Musical Event:** *Cellophony*.  
**Worst Musical Event:** 100 Days Breakfast.

**Sexiest:** Max Webster.  
**Not the Most Attractive:** Michael Downing.

**Best Thing about MBA:** Mr. Gioia.  
**Worst Thing about MBA:** The Little People.

**Coollest Thing Ever to Happen at MBA:** 2008 Senior Prank.

**Lamest Thing Ever to Happen at MBA:** Cutting down the senior prank before anyone could see it.

**Weirdest Demeritable Offense:** That one where that kid was lying on the ground hoping for a glimpse under a skirt.

**Normalest Demeritable Offense:** Anything for which Joseph Sloan gets demerits.

**Coollest Car:** Rand's Convertible Mini... honk if you think I'm sexy.

**Worst Car:** Michael's Mini... honestly, don't people have legs? So why did they design the Mini for legless people?

**Most Embarrassing Moment:** Mr. Womack attempting to explain those white things out there.

**Least Embarrassing Moment:** Anytime Anderson McLaughlin speaks.

**Most Awesome Fantasy:** An uncensored version of this list.

**Least Awesome Fantasy:** Not being able to graduate because of this list.

**Best Musical Group:** Max Pote's Musical Extravaganza Group Rap Thing.

**Worst Musical Group:** Max Webster free-styling with Garrett.

**Most Awesome Junior Moment:** Joseph Sloan is in their class!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Least Awesome Junior Moment:** Not being seniors.

**Most Awesome Senior Moment:** Not being juniors.

**Least Awesome Senior Moment:** Apparently, the senior prank...oops.

**Best Documentary:** *No Generation for Old Men/Ghosts of Jefferson*.

**Worst Documentary:** *More than a Thousand Words/Backyard Bombings*.

**Best Play:** *The Visit*.

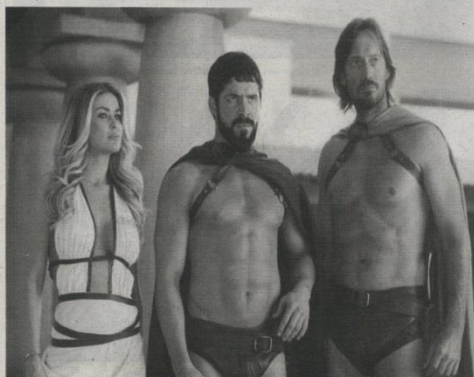
**Worst Play:** Jimmy's one-act.

**Best Party:** Any of those notorious Ian Snyder parties...I mean, come on, we've already graduated.

**Worst Party:** Seventh-grade Halloween Dance.

**Best Food:** Off-campus lunch.

**Worst Food:** Mr. Tate's Hawaiian Surprise...what in the world?

Bomb of the year: *Meet the Spartans*



## Survey Quantifies Student/Faculty Impressions

conducted by Roderick Russ

History Teacher

Respondents by grade:

7 - 74, 8 - 50, 9 - 60, 10 - 63, 11 - 35, 12 - 31, Faculty - 41

Scale was from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

The MBA Ideal, "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," accurately reflects the school's mission.  
S - 3.87 F - 3.90

Substance abuse (Drug/Alcohol) is not a problem at MBA.  
3.01 F - 2.51

There are no problems with bullies at MBA.  
3.02 F - 2.66

MBA prepares students to deal with issues and problems the students will face in the future.  
3.68 F - 3.63

Students see a relationship between what they are studying and their everyday lives.  
2.86 F - 3.22

My teachers use a variety of teaching strategies and learning activities to help me learn.  
3.52 F - 3.83

In addition to written tests, I am provided with a variety of ways to show my learning.  
3.39 F - 3.56

If I have a personal problem, I can talk with a staff member (e.g., counselor, teacher) at school.  
3.41

The advisory system plays an important and effective role in keeping students informed and helping students to make good decisions.  
3.23 F - 3.46

Cheating is strongly discouraged at our school.  
4.32 F - 3.90

The Honor Code and Honor Council are effective.  
3.55 F - 2.93

Students are respectful of school and community property.  
3.12 F - 3.15

Students respect all adults in our school regardless of their role.  
3.13 F - 2.78

MBA makes continuing efforts to cultivate awareness and understanding of global issues and trends.  
3.40 F - 3.85

Assembly speakers consistently address important ideas and increase community awareness of global issues.  
3.24 F - 3.56

Thanks to  
all who  
took the  
survey!!!



Seniors anticipate juicy steak at the Leavers Dinner



Disorganized seniors prepare for the college t-shirt day picture



Charlie, Frank, Jon Jon, Travis, and Austin at the Athletic Banquet



Zan tells the chorus to stay classy



